

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

S E C R E T STATE 296213

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM TEHRAN DATED DECEMBER 1, 1976

SENT SECSTATE WASHDC INFO ADDIS ABABA, BANGHDAD, TEL

AVIV IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

S E C R E T TEHRAN 11952

E.O. 11652: XGDS 1

TAGS: PFOR, IR, ET, IZ, IT

SUBJ: IRANIAN INQUIRY ON CUBAN PRESENCE IN IRAQ, SOUTH

YEMEN, AND ETHIOPIA

REF: (A) TEHRAN 11403, (B) STATE 291504

1. SOME DAYS AGO WHEN URI LUBRANI, UNOFFICIAL ISRAELI AMBASSADOR IN TEHRAN, CALLED TO SEE ME ON ANOTHER MATTER, RAISED WITH HIM GENERAL CONTENTS OF REFTEL (A). MORNING DECEMBER 1, LUBRANI REPORTED BACK TO ME WITH INFORMATION FROM HIS PEOPLE.

2. ACCORDING TO LUBRANI, THERE IS NOT MUCH TRAFFIC OF CUBANS SOUTHWARD FROM BAGHDAD. IN OTHER WORDS, HE CONTENTS THAT CUBANS ARRIVING IN BAGHDAD BY AND LARGE REMAIN THERE. THE ISRAELIS ESTIMATE THAT THERE ARE 150 CUBAN MILITARY ADVISERS IN IRAQ TRAINING "THE POPULAR ARMY" (MILITIA).

3. LUBRANI SAYS THAT ACCORDING TO HIS GOVERNMENT'S ESTIMATES THERE ARE ABOUT 400 CUBANS IN THE PDRY WHERE THEY ARE

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TRAINING MILITIA, PFLO CADRES, AND LOCAL SECURITY AND

INTELLIGENCE UNITS.

4. IN RESPONSE TO THE ASSERTION THAT CUBAN MILITARY ADVISERS IN ETHIOPIA ARE REPLACING ISRAELIS, LUBRANI QUIPPED, "WE HAVE NOT HEARD OF IT." LUBRANI WAS ONCE ISRAELI AMBASSADOR IN ADDIS ABABA.) THE ISRAELIS HAVE INFORMATION THAT ABOUT 150 CUBANS HAVE ARRIVED IN ETHIOPIA OSTENSIBLY FROM ANGOLA. WHAT CONNECTION THESE INDIVIDUALS HAVE WITH THE CUBAN EMBASSY WHICH RECENTLY OPENED IN ADDIS ABABA IS APPARENTLY NOT CLEAR.

5. LUBRANI SAYS THAT HIS PEOPLE BELIEVE THERE ARE BETWEEN 400 AND 600 CUBANS IN SOMALIA WHERE THEY ARE USED TO TRAIN GUERRILLA FORCES AND LOCAL MILITIA.

6. CONTENTS OF REFTEL (B) PASSED TO IRANIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS DECEMBER 1.
HELMS UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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